

REMARKS

With entry of this amendment, claims 43-48, 54-56, and 61-84 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-13, 49-53, and 57-60 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute the subject matter of these claims in a related co-pending application. Claims 54-56 and 61-70 have been amended and new claims 71-84 have been added as set forth in detail below. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicants initially note that claims 55, 56, and 61-70 have been amended to correct the numbering error present in Applicants' amendment filed June 2, 2003. Claims 56, 57, and 62-71, as presented in the amendment filed June 2, 2003, have been renumbered as claims 55, 56, and 61-70.

Priority

The first paragraph of the specification has been amended to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2) by inserting a reference to the relationship (*i.e.*, "continuation-in-part") between the instant application and U.S. Patent Application No. 09/680,922.

Specification

The first paragraph of the specification has been amended to correct the reference to the provisional application filed October 6, 2000, by deleting the attorney docket number and inserting the serial number for the provisional application.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 8, 49, 54, and 57 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The instant rejected is obviated with respect to claims 8, 49, and 57 in view of the cancellation of these claims.

Further, claim 54 has been amended to insert the term "system" following the term "objective lens," thereby reciting "the objective lens system forming a first intermediate image within the lens," as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants believe this amendment to correct an obvious typographical error in claim 54. Therefore, Applicants believe the meaning of amended claim 54 to be commensurate with the meaning of claim 54 as originally filed, as interpreted by the skilled artisan reading the claims in light of the specification. Thus, the present amendment does not narrow the scope of claim 54.

In view of the remarks and the amendment set forth above, Applicants believe claim 54 to be definite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 54 as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 8, 12, 13, and 57-59 are rejected as being anticipated by Tateyama *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,852,511). Claims 57 and 58 are rejected as being anticipated by Bonnell *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,833,596). Claims 1-5 and 49 are rejected as being anticipated by Ibe (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,422).

While not agreeing with the Examiner's rejections or reasons for rejection, but in order to expedite prosecution of the instant application, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-5, 8, 12, 13, 49, and 57-59, as set forth above. Therefore, Applicants note that the present rejections are obviated.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 43-48, 54-56, and 61-70 are allowed by the Examiner.

Applicants further note that claims 7, 9, 11, 50-53, and 60, which depend from claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, are indicated in the Office Action Summary as objected to. Because these claims have not been rejected by the Examiner, Applicants believe these objections to be based on dependency from the rejected base claims, and that these claims should be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 7, 9, 11, 50-53, and 60 have been canceled and re-presented as new claims 71-84, as set forth below.

New Claims

New claim 71 substantially recites in independent form the subject matter set forth in claim 7, which depends from claim 1. New claims 72-75, which depend from claim 71, recite limitations set forth in original claims 2-5.

New claims 76 and 77 substantially recite in independent form the subject matter set forth in claims 9 and 11, respectively, which depend from rejected base claim 8.

New claim 78 substantially recites in independent form the subject matter set forth in claim 50, which depends from claim 49.

New claim 79 substantially recites in independent form the subject matter set forth in claim 51, which depends from claim 49. New claim 80, which depends from claim 79, recites limitations set forth in claim 52.

New claim 81 substantially recites in independent form the subject matter set forth in claim 53, which depends from claim 49.

New claim 82 substantially recites in independent form the subject matter set forth in claim 60, which depends from claim 57. New claims 83 and 84, which depend from claim 82, recite limitations set forth in claims 58 and 59.

For the reasons set forth above (see *Allowable Subject Matter, supra*), Applicants believe that new claims 71-84 should be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

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